

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 221135Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8254
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3898

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PINS, SU, LY
SUBJECT: SADEQ AL-MAHDI RETURNS FROM LIBYA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LOCAL MEDIA REPORTED AUGUST 22 RETURN OF SADEQ AL-MAHDI FROM RECENT VISIT TO LIBYA. ON AUGUST 21 HE SAW NIMEIRI AND REPORTED ON RESULTS HIS ACTIVITIES THERE. ACCORDING THESE REPORTS, SADEQ CARRIED MESSAGE FROM NIMEIRI TO QADDHAFI AND HE RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM QADDHAFI CONCERNING NATIONAL UNITY IN SUDAN, PROMOTING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND REACHING AGREEMENT ON RETURN OF SUDANESE EXPATRIATES. NEWS REPORTS INDICATE THAT IN RESPONSE TO LIBYAN INVITATION, SUDAN-GOV WILL SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO ATTEND SEPTEMBER 1 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN TRIPOLI. LATER, ANOTHER DELEGATION WILL GO TO LIBYA TO QUOTE SET RIGHT UNQUOTE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. EVENTUALLY NIMEIRI WOULD MEET QADDHAFI, ALTHOUGH NO TIME OR PLACE WAS SET
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FOR SUCH A MEETING. IN ADDITION TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS, SAHAFA REPORTED THAT SADEQ VISITED ANSAR EXPATRIATES IN CAMPS IN LIBYA AND PREPARED FOR THEIR RETURN TO SUDAN.
END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: UNTIL HIS RETURN AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY IN LOCAL MEDIA, MOST SUDANESE WERE UNAWARE THAT SADEQ HAD BEEN TO LIBYA. TONE OF PRESS REPORTS IS THAT SADEQ'S VISIT WAS BUSY AND USEFUL AND THAT ANSAR IN LIBYA SHOULD BE COMING HOME FAIRLY SOON. THUS RECONCILIATION MOVING FORWARD. IN REFERRING TO ANSAR EXPATRIATES, SADEQ HAS USED ARABIC WORD QUOTE MUHAJIREEN UNQUOTE WHICH HAS RELIGIOUS CONNOTATION AND IN CONTEXT THEIR RETURN TO SUDAN SUGGESTS THAT PREVIOUS UNHOLY ATMOSPHERE THAT REQUIRED THEM TO LEAVE NO LONGER PRESENT AND THEREFORE THEY CAN RETURN NOW WITH CLEAR CONSCIENCE.

3. NEWS REPORTS ALSO SUGGEST THAT WITH RETURN OF ANSAR STAGE WILL BE SET FOR IMPROVEMENT IN SUDAN-LIBYA BILATERAL RELATIONS. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT, IN FACT, HAPPENS ALTHOUGH APPEARS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE SOME HIGH LEVEL VISITS AMONG OFFICIALS OF BOTH COUNTRIES IN NEAR FUTURE. THIS PRESUMABLY, WILL CAUSE USUAL NERVOUSNESS IN CAIRO WHERE EGYPTIAN LEADERS, ACCORDING EMBASSY CAIRO REPORTING, ARE ALREADY MIFFED AT NIMEIRI OVER ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD HERE.

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